Off Take by Fair Price Shops

3863. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual off take of Fair Price Shops falls short of the standard off take;

(b) whether it is also a fact that detailed guidelines were issued by his ministry in respect of Area Officer Scheme in early 2000; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The off take of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in several States has been low.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Area Officer Scheme was introduced to provide a mechanism to coordinate with State Governments/UTs for regular and effective review and monitoring of Public Distribution System. The Area Officers visit their allotted States/ UTs and submit their tour reports. As a follow up action the reports are sent to the concerned State Governments on the points raised in the reports for resolution of issues. This Scheme has resulted in better coordination and understanding between Central Government and State Governments/UTs for effective monitoring and implementation of PDS.

Diversion of PDS Stocks

3864. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Distribution System stocks are being diverted due to lack of surveillance by the State authorities;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains diverted during the last three years, State-wise; and